

LUIS VALENZUELA, PH.D. was appointed to the Commission in 2012. He has over 25 years of experience as an advocate in non-profit organizations. He is currently employed by the Healthcare Education Project of the Greater New York Hospital Association & 1199 SEIU. In his capacity as a Healthcare Advocate, Luis works to improve healthcare in New York State through education, grassroots organizing and coalition-building. As a Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare SUNY Stony Brook, Dr. Valenzuela helps to prepare new social work professionals. In his role as the Executive Director of the Long Island Immigrant Alliance (LIIA), Dr. Valenzuela has worked with an alliance of some 50 charitable, religious, labor, civil rights and immigrant organizations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties that are concerned with ensuring that Long Island provides a welcoming environment for immigrants and invites their involvement in the cultural, socio-economic and political life of their community. He presently serves on the Suffolk County Police Commissioner's Advisory Board and on the Suffolk County Welfare to Work Commission. Dr. Valenzuela has served as Vice Chair of the New York Immigration Coalition and past President of the National Association of Puerto Rican Hispanic Social Workers (NAPRHSW). He is active in many community organizations including: The Long Island Council of Churches, NASW (National Association of Social Workers), Jobs With Justice LI, The Latino Jewish Coalition, Long Island WINS, SUNY Stony Brook President's Multicultural Advisory Board, The Health & Welfare Council, Community Advocates, Molloy College President's Multicultural Advisory, The Long Island Organizing Network (LION), College of Advisors for Erase Racism, and the Nassau Suffolk Hispanic Legislative Task Force. Over the years, Dr. Valenzuela has received recognition from many prestigious organizations, as well as local and state government and congressional recognition for his service to the community. Dr. Valenzuela completed his social work studies at SUNY Stony Brook School of Social Welfare and at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Services. Dr. Valenzuela is also a graduate of the Energeia Partnership Regional Stewards Leadership Program, and a CORO Leadership Fellow. Dr. Valenzuela enjoys spending time with his wife Deborah, his adult children and grandchildren.